

Application No.: 10/679656
Amendment dated: February 8, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 20, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed replacement sheets for the corresponding original sheets of drawing. Annotated drawings, showing the changes, are also enclosed.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The drawings have been amended as required, and claim 5 has been amended to address the claim objection. A similar correction has been made in claim 7.

Claims 5 has been rewritten in independent form, and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1.

Independent claim 7 is similar in scope to the original version of claim 7. However, in rewriting claim 7, it was noted that the language "in which said projection extends from said case had no antecedent, because, claim 1 was broad enough to encompass two alternative versions, one in which the projection extended from the clip and the recess was part of the case, and another in which the projection extended from the case, and the recess was part of the clip. Claim 7 has been revised to recite that the projection extends "in a first direction into said recess," and to refer to said "first direction" as the direction in which a pulling force would be exerted. The language "in which said projection extends from said case" has been eliminated in claim 7.

In claims 5 and 7, the word "and," between "case" and "a manually operable," in the language taken from claim 1, has been deleted because it is an unnecessary, and potentially confusing, extraneous conjunction in a recitation of a series of elements.

The Examiner's stated reasons for allowance are fully applicable to the amended versions of claims 5 and 7.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the resilient, deformable sidewall of the recess. The resilient, deformable

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sidewall of claim 1 is supported in paragraphs 0008 and 0035. The claim goes on to recite the tab and flange engageable by a snap fit, and to recite that the deformability of the side wall allows "the projection and tab to be disengaged from each other by exertion of a bending force to effect relative bending of the case and the mounting clip." This combination of features does not appear to have been taught in the prior art.

New claim 8, which is dependent on claim 1, adds the limitation that the bending force required to disengage the projection and tab from each other is less than the pulling force required to disengage the projection and tab from each other by directly pulling the clip away from the case. This feature is also missing from the prior art. The magnitude of the bending force required to disengage the case from the mounting clip is inherently a function of the lengths of the case and mounting clip. That is, if the case and clip are short, a large bending force is required; if they are long, a smaller bending force is required. Thus, for structure that gives rise to the relationship between the bending force and the pulling force, claim 8 further includes a recitation that the case and the mounting clip are "sufficiently long" that the bending force is less than the pulling force.

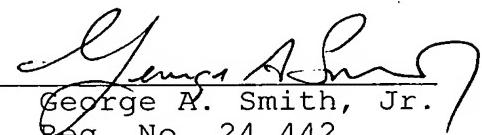
For the reasons set forth, claim 1, as amended, and its dependent claims 2-4 and 8, define subject matter that is neither anticipated, nor shown to have been obvious, by the prior art. Reconsideration of the application, and allowance

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of claims 1-4 and 8 along with claims 5-7, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWSON & HOWSON

By


George A. Smith, Jr.
Reg. No. 24,442
Howson & Howson
Box 457
Spring House, PA 19477
Telephone: 215 540 9200
Facsimile: 215 540 5818

Enclosures

2 Replacement sheets
2 Annotated sheets



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Annotated sheet 1 of 2

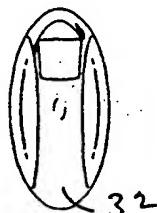


Fig. 2

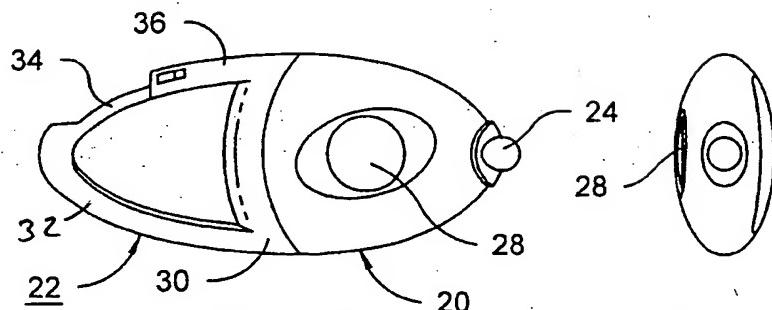


Fig. 1

Fig. 3

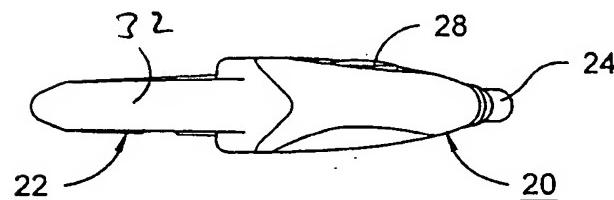


Fig. 4

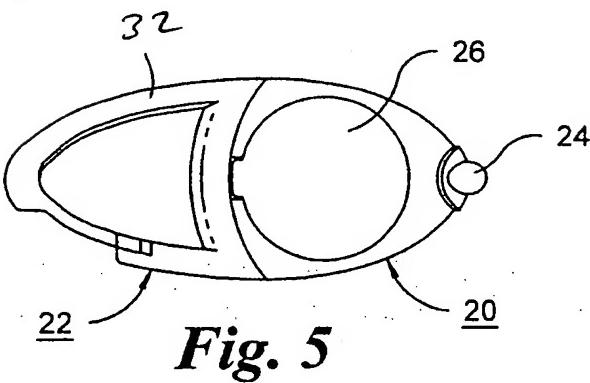


Fig. 5

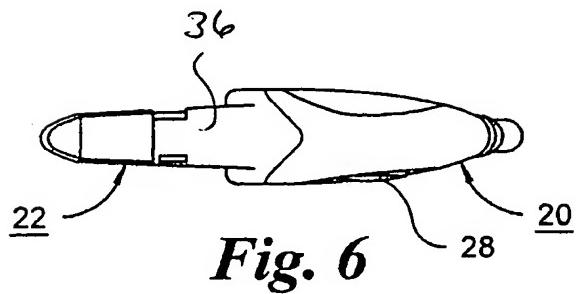


Fig. 6

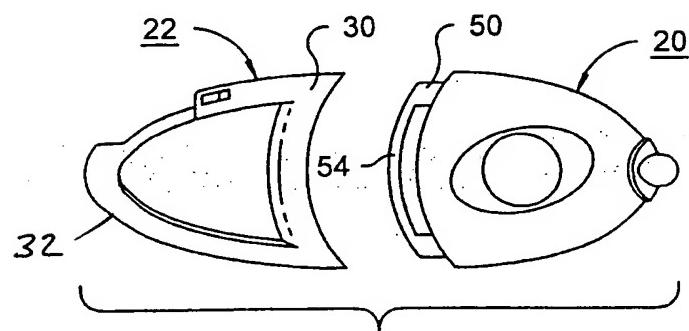


Fig. 7

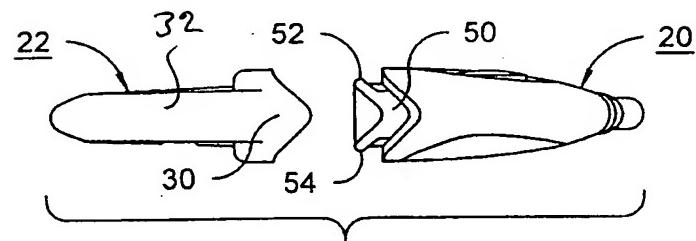


Fig. 8

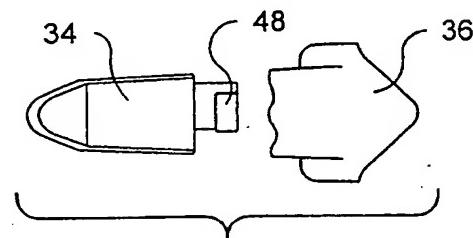


Fig. 10

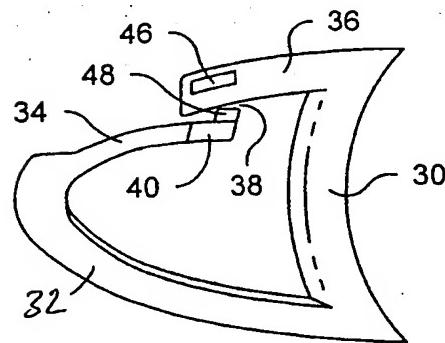


Fig. 9